



Victory Times

Telling the Multi-National Corps - Iraq story

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Servicemembers work with Iraqi businesses

Pfc. Karin Leach
114th Public Affairs Detachment

A woman with a head dress and pink eye shadow pointed at the different diagrams shown in a booklet explaining her business' capabilities during a fair held by the Victory Regional Contracting Center.

The fair occurred in the field house on Camp Liberty, Aug. 19 to help Iraq restore its economy.

"We are establishing a relationship to work together," Capt. Angela Smoot, High Point, N.C., contracting specialists, 46th Engineer Battalion, Joint Regional Contracting Command Iraq/Afghanistan, said. "We are building bonds; that's why the theme of the event was titled, Forging Partnership Through Procurement."

The event had more than 70 Iraqi vendors displaying their business capabilities to Servicemembers and civilians. The businesses offered services such as cleaning, laundry and maintenance. Other businesses offered construction, gravel and general supplies.

"I was expecting a few vendors, Air Force Master Sgt. Allen Matthews, lodging section chief, 447th Expeditionary Force Support said.

"To my amazement it was above my expectations. All vendors were very professional in how they offered to show their products to someone as a customer."

The JRCC has a system called the Joint Contingency Contracting System where Iraqi vendors register online to begin the process of gaining business opportunities with government venues. Vendors are trained through conferences, e-mails, face-to-face contact and phone calls on how to conduct business.

They are then advised on how to begin their business. They are assisted through translators and liaisons.

Coordination is important to proactively solve any problems with both parties. Ensuring legitimate businesses with the



Photo by Pfc. Karin Leach

Air Force Master Sgt. Allen Matthews, lodging chief, 447th Expeditionary Force Support, reads a pamphlet explaining details of the Iraqi woman's business, Camp Liberty, Aug. 19.

proper registration is the final method put into affect.

"I do think positive results will come out of this," said Smoot.

"It was really helpful for the JRCC to see new vendors. Many units came to me and said that they had made contact with new vendors who provided the same services with better

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Judaism: *Fall begins celebration of Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Succoth, Shemini Atzeres*

CH (Maj.) Avrohom Horovitz
MNC-I Jewish Chaplain

The Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashana, will be ushered in at sundown Sept. 18, and additional Holy Day observances will take place on Sept. 19 and 20. The special biblical precept that is identified with Rosh Hashana is the sounding of the ram's horn, Shofar.

The source of the horn in Scripture is in the Book of Numbers, Chapter 29, verse 1. The Shofar blasts are an acknowledgment of divine sovereignty over the world and a call to spiritual self-examination. The ten days beginning with Rosh Hashana are days of Repentance. The Fast of Gedalia is on Sept. 21. Gedalia was a righteous governor in the Holy Land who was assassinated, as recorded in the Book of Jeremiah, Chapter 41.

The Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, will take place from sundown on Sept. 27, until nightfall on Sept. 28. The biblical source for this, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, is found in the Book of Leviticus, Chapter 23, Verse 27-28: "The tenth of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement for you. It is a sacred holiday when you must afflict your souls... Do not do any work on this day, for it is the Day of Atonement..."

The biblical precept to, "afflict your souls" is fulfilled by abstaining from all eating and drinking. The obligation to fast, along with five prayer services, help direct all

worshippers to seek forgiveness from the creator of the universe, and to re-order their priorities in the New Year. A memorial service for the departed, Yizkor, is a tradition of the day.

The Festival of Booths, Succoth, begins at sundown on Oct. 2. The Jewish people are commanded, Leviticus: Chapter 23, verses 39-43, to build thatched huts, and make them their home for seven days. This represents the booths in which the Israelites dwelt during the 40 years in the desert following the Exodus.

The Jewish people are instructed to wave four agricultural species; made up of a citron, Esrog; branches from a date-palm, Lulav, myrtle, Hadassim and willow, Aravos. By waving them in all directions, we praise the creator as the source of all nature.

This Festival of Gathering in the harvest is the source of the American festival of Thanksgiving, the biblical model that the Pilgrims followed when offering thanks for their first harvest in the new world. The first two days are days of obligation, and mundane work is forbidden.

The eighth day of festivities, called Shemini Atzeres in the Book of Numbers, Chapter 29, verse 35, beginning at sundown Oct. 9, has a memorial service, Yizkor, and a prayer for rain. The ninth and final day is called Simchas Torah, "The Rejoicing of the Law" and marks the festive joy and dancing with the Torah scroll, for completing the yearly cycle of publicly reading the Scripture.

Worship Hours

Victory Chapel (Bldg. 31)

Thursday
7:30 p.m. Latter Day Saints Seminary
Friday
6:30 p.m. Jewish Shabbat Service
Saturday
11 a.m. 7th Day Adventist Service
8 p.m. Catholic Mass
Sunday
2 p.m. Latter Day Saints Service
4 p.m. Episcopal/Lutheran Service

Mini Chapel (Bldg. 24F)

Tuesday
7:30 p.m. Latter Day Saints Service
Wednesday
7 p.m. Men's Fellowship
Friday
8 p.m. Women's Fellowship
Sunday
10 a.m. Protestant Sunday School
7 p.m. Latter Day Saints Service

Hope Chapel (Bldg 24B)

Monday
12 p.m. Charismatic Prayer Meeting
7 p.m. Monday Night Live Bible Study
Wednesday
5:30 p.m. Living by Faith Bible Study
Thursday
6:30 p.m. Bible Study
Saturday
7:30 p.m. Victory Gospel Experience

Sunday

8:30 a.m. Collective Protestant Service
10 a.m. Roman Catholic Mass
12 p.m. Gospel Service
6:30 p.m. Contemp. Protestant Service

Warrior Chapel (Camp Liberty)

Friday
6:30 p.m. Victory Base Open Circle

MNC-I Chaplain's Office:
485-3743



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Challenge coin tradition continues

Pfc. Karin Leach
114th Public Affairs Detachment

A brass coin with his squadron's insignia sat safely in a leather pouch around an Air Force pilot's neck after being attacked by heavy fire and forced to land behind enemy lines during World War I. The pilot escaped the German's prisoner of war facility and came in contact with French patrols. He had no means of identification left, except for the coin.

One of the French patrolmen recognized the insignia and instead of shooting the pilot he was given a drink. Though the exact origin of the military challenge coin is not known, the story of



Photo by Pfc. Karin Leach

the pilot and his brass coin is one of the most widely accepted.

It is said to have become tradition for the pilots to carry the coin at all times and challenge one another to produce it. If the coin was not produced by the challenged he would buy a drink of choice for the challenger.

Throughout the military branches the tradition then became that the challenge coin was given for excellence as a token of appreciation.

"A coin should be given when someone isn't just doing the normal duties, but when they are going above and beyond what is expected," Spc. Austin



Photo by Pfc. Karin Leach

Spc. Cory Lincourt, Avenger crewmember, E Battery, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery, 108th Brigade, Camp Liberty, and grandfather Staff Sgt. Paul Weekley, radio operator, B Company, 146th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Forward Operating Base Delta receive coins from Brig. Gen. Heidi Brown, deputy commanding general-sustainment, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, June 13.

Flor, joint networking nodal system operators/maintainers, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, said.

Sgt. Maj. Sean P. Burke has experienced both receiving coins and giving coins throughout his time in the Army.

"I remember my first coin," Burke, senior enlisted advisor, Task Force Troy, said. "It was in Korea in 1987. I was a part of the honor guard and after the ceremony the sergeant major gave us all coins.

"At that time coins were not given out as freely and it made me feel special to be able to get a coin. Now as a sergeant major I can't give a pay raise, but I can give a coin. It's a small

symbol of my appreciation."

Whether the coins are used as mementos to proud pastimes or as a challenge among friends, the coins are still a proud tradition that the military savors.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Attila Fazekas

Multi-National Corps-Iraq Command Sgt. Maj. Frank A. Grippe, presents his coins to Soldiers for outstanding performance, July 28.

TCAP helps lawyers try sexual assault cases

Staff Sgt. Luke Koladish
114th Public Affairs Detachment

The Trial Counsel Assistance Program recently held a four-day course at Camp Victory to help 41 trial counsels and paralegals from throughout Iraq better prosecute sexual assault cases.

“Training on how to effectively prosecute sexual assault crimes will send a signal to would be abusers that we have the necessary skills to put them away, and hopefully will comfort the victims to know we will do everything in our power to serve justice,” Capt. Nathan J. Bankson, Multi-National Corps- Iraq chief of justice, said.

As the chief of justice, Bankson has oversight of all the trial counsels in theater. It was at his request that TCAP

conducted their first trip to a theater of operations to assist the prosecutors.

The course began with an overview of victim dynamics and the behaviors of sexual predators.

“People in general have intuitive responses the way they think victims should act, they believe they are going to shout no, fight back and immediately report the assault,” Capt. Sasha N. Rutizer, TCAP

training officer, explained.

Roger Canaff, one of three civilian highly qualified experts hired by the government, said sexual assault does not typically occur between strangers. The victim does not often report the rape themselves, if at all.

Canaff, a sex crimes and child abuse prosecutor from the Bronx, said it is also not uncommon for a victim to continue contact with the assailant.

“Just because a victim continued to communicate, either by text message or emails, with the

perpetrator does not mean they were not raped,” Canaff said.

An assailant will go after what Canaff called soft targets, victims that have an alcohol problem, are perceived as promiscuous by others or suffer from mental health issues.

“A perpetrator is not easy to spot, they are not creepy looking, they are not large, intimidating stalkers,” Canaff said. “Undetected rapist appear to be decent Soldiers. They use alcohol and manipulation to obtain sex, not by chasing women down

dark alleys and incapacitating them physically.”

Understanding how to break through these myths to a court-martial panel are key to prosecuting alleged assailants.

“We are identifying what is a target of opportunity for a predator and to understand what’s going on his mind so we can tell the story of the victim, and better prove the facts of the case,” Bankson added.

“In the last five to 10 years, there has been a lot of success in educating civilian attorneys, judges and juries,” Canaff said. “We are trying to obtain that same success here.”

The one of the reasons Canaff agreed to make the trip to Iraq was to learn what the extent of the problem is and what challenges are being imposed by being in theater.

In his experience there have been more alcohol related sexual assaults stateside because it is more readily

available and there is more socializing. Canaff said in theater there is less leisure time and far less access to alcohol, which is how predators thrive.

As a result, there are more low-level groping offenses, wrongful sexual contact and rape by force in Iraq when compared to a garrison environment.

Rarely do the attorneys have the opportunity to gather together in such a forum while deployed, so on the fourth and final day they spent the afternoon reviewing current cases peer to peer.

“Today’s session we are talking about pending cases to discuss among ourselves approaches, charging and how to use evidence to gain a conviction,” Capt. Jeremy Scholtes, 17th Fires Brigade trial counsel, Multi-National Division-South, said.

Scholtes spent three days traveling so he could attend the course.

“Article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice assimilates federal law,” he said after the course, “that is why the highly



Photo by Staff Sgt. Luke Koladish

Roger Canaff explains the importance of understanding victim dynamics to successfully prosecute sexual assault cases. Canaff is a highly qualified expert hired by the Army to work with the Trial Counsel Assistance Program.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Luke Koladish

Capt. John Tuttle prepares his case for a court-martial Aug. 29 at Camp Victory. Tuttle was one of 41 Soldiers that attended a four-day course hosted by TCAP to better prosecute sexual assault crimes.

qualified expert is so useful, he shows us the way they have been trying these cases in civilian court for years.”

Capt. John Tuttle, Task Force Courage and Task Force Troy trial counsel said TCAP was a valuable tool for the young attorneys in theater.

“When you first get thrown in here, your first case may be a rape or murder. Tuttle said.

“With TCAP you have more resources to make your case, they can provide you with an understanding of the science and the psychology behind it.”

ACOR: Guarding Army assets, linguist rights

Staff Sgt. Luke Koladish
114th Public Affairs Detachment

Here on Camp Victory one man is charged with the responsibility of protecting the rights of more than 3,500 linguists while simultaneously ensuring they fulfill their contract with the military.

"My job is to protect the interest of the Army first and foremost, and the integrity of the mission," Maj. David Russo, Assistant Contracting Officer's Representative, explained. "That being said, there is no sweeping under the rug, every issue presented by a linguist or a member of a unit must be looked into."

ACOR has oversight of a \$5.6 billion contract, covering Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2005 the managing of linguist responsibilities was an additional duty within the unit. In 2006 it became a mission carried out by officers overseen by a colonel in theater.

"We ensure the terms of the contract are being met, make sure they do what they are hired to do, are treated fairly and are able to communicate accurately between U.S. forces and Iraqis," Russo said.

The intelligence officer, formerly attached to a Florida reserve unit, draws upon his experience as a corporate lawyer in the civilian world.

"Circumstantial evidence is great, but at the end of the day it's the facts and reality of the case that will determine the outcome."

There are three aspects of Russo's mission, validations, surveys and on-site inspections or visits.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Luke Koladish

Maj. David Russo, Assistant Contracting Officer's Representative, explains his survey to a linguist working at one of the Victory Base Complex checkpoints.

"To account for linguist I review a list, for example the 30th HBCT which has 350 linguists, with the contract site manager and the brigade linguist manager to ensure first of all that everyone is where they are suppose to be," he said.

As the drawdown commences and units have moved out of cities, translators are let go or reassigned. Some never return from rest and relaxation leave.

Russo also surveys the linguist and linguist managers. The surveys give the linguist the opportunity to voice their concerns without any pressure from military personnel.

"I am the only one that reviews the surveys, the Army never sees them, so the linguist can be assured there will be no influence from the unit they are

assigned to," Russo explained.

He said most of the concerns he deals with are timely paychecks, housing standards and access to the Post Exchange and chow halls. The next step is to conduct on site inspections.

Complaints of an interpreter being incompetent often stem from personality clashes between the translators and U.S. civilian contractors Russo said.

To determine linguist capabilities he will review their scores from mandatory language test. Sometimes he will accompany a patrol with the unit to see how they are interacting with the translator.

"It comes down to a subjective decision on my part; I try to be as fair as possible while allowing for the benefit of the doubt."

Continued from page 1

prices."

The JRCC is planning a similar event for the Women-Owned Business Program to fight poverty and provide business and economic education to sustain livelihood and communities.

As each customer gazed upon a pamphlet put together by the Iraqi businesswoman she smiled up at them trying her best to

accurately answer each individual's questions.

"There is nothing like serving in a foreign country and having direct contact with the people of that country in a positive way," Smoot said.

"Planning the event was stressful, but the day of the event was so great. I was happy to feel a sincere connection with the people there."



Sexual Harassment / Assault Response & Prevention (SHARP) Program  **I.A.M. STRONG**
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Everyone should be treated with respect. Respect does not warrant unwanted comments or physical contact. Harassment, unwanted comments, or nonconsensual physical or sexual contact of any person will not be tolerated. Violators will be fired and may be prosecuted and go to jail for violating Iraqi or U.S. law. Remember: "No" means "No", respect those around you.

كلنا فريق واحد

كل شخص ينبغي ان يعامل باحترام. الاحترام لا يتضمن التعليقات أو المضايقات غير المرغوب بها بجميع انواعها وحتى التطبيقات والمضايقات الجنسية، وحتى الاتصال الجسدي من غير رضى وقبول، وهذه الامور لا يمكن التسامح فيها. المخالف لهذه السجن بتهمة انتهاك التعليمات سوف يطرد ويمكن ملاحقته قانونيا والذهاب الى القانون العراقي والأمريكي، تذكر لا تعنى لا ، احترم الموجودين

For more information or to report an incident contact:
LTC Simpson, SGM Newman, or SFC Watkins @ DSN:318-485-5085; SVOIP: 243-6116
MNF-I/MNC-I Sexual Harassment/ Assault Response & Prevention (SHARP) Office

ANONYMOUS EO DROP BOX

In the "news and events block" on the MNC-I web page there is now an area for people to leave comments about equal opportunity and sexual assault concerns.

**Everyone is welcome to use it. Those leaving comments may leave contact information if they wish.
Only SFC Angle and SFC Watkins read the comments left in the box.**

For more information, contact SFC Angle
Scott.Angle@iraq.centcom.mil DSN: 318-435-2231

CONNECT TODAY

www.mnc-i.com/connect

Operating Hours

Coalition Cafe DFAC
Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5 - 9 p.m.
Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Sports Oasis DFAC
Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5 - 9 p.m.

Education Center
8 a.m.-midnight

Camp Liberty Post Exchange
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center
Open 24 Hours

Victory Main Post Office
Monday-Sunday 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

MNF/C-I Unit Mail Room
Customer Services/Mail Call:
3-6 p.m.

Al Faw Palace Post Office
Wednesday and Sunday
12:30-5:30 p.m.

Golby TMC Sick Call
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Dental Sick Call
Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Pharmacy
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon;
1 - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

NOTICE

Container management and IBS-CMM system training is available every Monday at 1430 on Camp Victory, Building 13 conference room.

Contact Williams at grace.williams@iraq.centcom.mil or DSN 318 485-2300 to schedule training for a representative from your unit.

Cycling club offers healthy alternative to running

Spc. Amburr J. Reese
114th Public Affairs Detachment

While rotating out with XVIII Airborne Corps. Maj. Dan D. Streetman, El Dorado Hills, Calif., and strategist with the Multi-National Corps Iraq command group, discovered a small group of cyclist that had been riding together on and around Camp Victory, Iraq.

Now, with some advice from his cycling club president Mike Berretta back home, Streetman has been able to formally establish the Victory Base Complex Cycling Club.



Photo by Spc. Amburr Reese

"The team is 16 members strong and meets on a regular basis," Streetman said.

The club meets Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays for a variety of rides that

"If someone has had biking experience this is a great place to get some time in," said Maj. Dan Streetman.

include Signal Hill, a loop around Camp Liberty and a more advanced ride that pushes the cyclists 48 miles when they ride twice around all of

Victory Base Complex to include Baghdad International Airport.

While riding on the roads here one of the main focuses of the club is safety.

"We require everyone on the team to ride with a quality helmet, eye protection and we encourage gloves," Streetman said. "Every

team member wears either the bright yellow Army jersey, or if they are a Marine, they wear a bright red Marine jersey so we can easily be seen. While riding on busy roads, we ride in a single file line-up, which also helps us be more efficient."

Maj. Scott LaRonde, Dripping Springs, Texas, and intelligence planner with MNC-I C-5, has been riding with the VBC cycling club for about a month.

"This is the first bike club I have been a part of," LaRonde said. "I compete as a triathlete at home, and cycling is my weakest leg in the competition. This is a good opportunity for me to improve my riding."

A lot of the members of VBC cycling club have been riding throughout their

lives for teams and with cycling clubs back in the states.

The level of experience in the group allows more novice athletes to benefit from their experience.

"Leading the group has been a great chance to share some enthusiasm with Soldiers," Streetman said. "It is great exercise, and a good alternative to running. Plus you get exposed to lots of different areas; I know where everything is on VBC."

The club is always looking for new members.

"If someone has had biking experience this is a great place to get some time in," Streetman said.

"I am not good yet, but I am getting better," LaRonde joked. "I never expected to leave Iraq as a better cyclist."



Photo by Spc. Amburr Reese

Col. Steven R. Grove, a member of VBC cycling team here on Camp Victory, Iraq rides around Lost Lake, Aug. 16. Lost Lake is the common meeting place for the team before every ride.